

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

**Listing of claims:**

1 (Currently amended). A method to diagnose equipment failures using an integrated approach of case-based reasoning and reliability analysis, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a case base database for the equipment;

receiving an equipment problem description from a user;

for each component in the equipment, calculating failure probability based on historical failure ~~and published data, using reliability theory data and/or published failure data of the components;~~

for each component, calculating probability of matching problem description assuming that a component fails, using case based reasoning;

for each component, combining the calculated probabilities to compute ~~the an~~ overall failure probability given the historical ~~behavior and published data failure data and/or published failure data and said~~ problem description; and

composing a list of component recommendations by ranking components by their overall failure probabilities and retrieving corresponding past solutions from ~~the a case base database.~~

2 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of producing a single list of suggested failed components based on ~~published failure data, historical failure behavior historical failure data and/or published failure data as observed by the said user of said equipment user, and the said problem description specified by the received from said user.~~

3 (Currently amended). The method of claim 2 4, further comprising the step of producing a list of probabilities of failure corresponding to the said single list of suggested failed components, with the said list of probabilities estimated from ~~published failure data, historical failure behavior~~ historical failure data and/or published failure data as observed by the said user of said equipment user, and the said problem description specified by the received from said user.

4 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of combining probabilities to compute said overall failure probability for each component uses an equipment hierarchy such that ~~component~~ said overall failure probabilities probability for each component is ~~are~~ estimated in a hierarchical manner, calculated from data for the equipment at hand, if there is adequate data, otherwise, from data from an equipment group one level up in the hierarchy, and repeating the process until adequate data is found.

5 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of combining probabilities to compute said overall failure probability for each component uses an equipment hierarchy such that historical cases are retrieved in a hierarchical manner, from data for the equipment at hand, if there is adequate data, otherwise, from data from an equipment group one level up in the hierarchy, and repeating the process until adequate data is found.

6 (Currently amended). A decision support system to diagnose equipment failures using an integrated approach of case-based reasoning and reliability analysis, comprising:

a case base maintenance management system database for the equipment;

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a decision support system database;

a decision support system client for receiving an equipment problem description from a user;

a decision support system server receiving input from the decision support system client and accessing said case base maintenance management system database and said decision support system database, said decision support system server including

a real-time decision support system engine for calculating failure probability for each component in the equipment, based on historical failure and published data and/or published failure data of each of the components, using reliability theory, and for calculating a probability of matching said equipment problem description for each component, assuming that a component fails, using case based reasoning, and for each component, combining the calculated the said calculated probabilities probability of matching said equipment problem description for each component to compute the an overall failure probability for each component given the historical failure data and/or published failure data of each of the components-behavior and published data and said equipment problem description and composing a list of component recommendations by ranking components by their overall failure probabilities and retrieving corresponding past solutions from the case base maintenance management system database; and

a case base update processor for copying closed failure transaction records from the case base maintenance management systems database, and extracting the information from these transaction records to the obtain attributes required by said real-time decision support system engine, and indexing each closed failure transaction record by the a failed component identification and the a number of occurrence of failure of that particular component.

7 (Currently amended). The decision support system of claim 6, wherein the said decision support system server produces a single list of suggested failed components based on published failure data, historical failure behavior said historical failure data and/or published failure data of each of the components as observed by the said user of said equipment user, and the said problem description specified by the received from said user.

8 (Currently amended). The decision support system of claim 7 6, wherein the said decision support system server produces a list of probabilities of failure corresponding to the said single list of suggested failed components, with the said list of probabilities estimated from published failure data, historical failure behavior historical failure data and/or published failure data of each of the components as observed by the said user of said equipment user, and the said problem description specified by the received from said user.

9 (Currently amended). The decision support system of claim 6, wherein the said decision support system server combines probabilities said probability of matching said equipment problem description for each component to compute said overall failure probability for each component using uses an equipment hierarchy such that component said overall failure probabilities probability for each component is are estimated in a hierarchical manner, calculated from data for the said equipment at hand, if there is adequate data, otherwise, from data from an equipment group one level up in the hierarchy, and repeats the process until adequate data is found.

10 (Currently amended). The decision support system of claim 6, wherein the decision support system server combines probabilities said probability of matching said equipment problem description for each of the components to compute said

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overall failure probability for each component using uses an equipment hierarchy such that historical cases are retrieved in a hierarchical manner, from data for the equipment at hand, if there is adequate data, otherwise, from data from an equipment group one level up in the hierarchy, and repeats the process until adequate data is found.